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DRAWING AMENDMENTS:

Applicants have amended the drawings as shown on the following two pages and have also attached replacement figures at the end of this document.

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REMARKS

Applicants respectfully submit that the amendments add no new matter and are fully supported by the application as originally filed.

Allowable Subject Matter

Applicants note with appreciation the allowance of Claims 39-46.

Amendments to the Drawings

Applicants have amended page 2 of the drawings by replacing “2/222” with --2/22-- to address the objection raised by the Examiner.

Applicants have amended the lead line for “30” on page 7 in Figure 4 to extend to the rod, not the surrounding space, to address the objection raised by the Examiner.

Amendments to the Specification and the Claims

Applicants have amended the title, “INTERCHANGEABLE TOOL HEADS” by replacing it with the following title: --A CLEANING IMPLEMENT WITH INTERCHANGEABLE TOOL HEADS--, as suggested by the Examiner.

In reviewing the specification, Applicants became aware that ¶00134 had been split into two paragraphs unintentionally. Applicants have corrected this error and renumbered the paragraphs following ¶00134 accordingly.

Applicants have amended the specification to correct informalities in two places in ¶0037 to replace “cradle 26” with –cradle 76--.

Applicants have amended the specification in ¶0055 to replace “VELCRO” with --VELCRO®--.

Applicants have corrected the informality noted by the Examiner in Claim 32 by adding --and-- after the semi-colon on line 10. In addition, Applicants found similar informalities in Claim 39, line 12; Claim 40, line 16; Claim 41, line 14; Claim 43, line 9; and Claim 45, line 7. In each of these claims, Applicants have added --and-- after the semi-colon on the indicated line.

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Applicants respectfully submit that the amendments merely correct obvious errors in the specification and add no new matter.

Claim Objections

Applicants note with appreciation the finding of Claims 15, 16, 18, 21-29 and 33-38 to be allowable if Claims 15, 16, 18, 21, 33, and 36 are rewritten in independent form.

In response, Applicants have amended Claim 1, from which Claims 15, 16, 18, and 21-29 depend, to be in condition for allowance. Applicants assert that as dependent Claims 15, 16, 18, and 21-29 depend from an allowable, amended independent claim, the dependent claims are also in condition for allowance.

Applicants have rewritten Claim 33 in independent form including all of the limitations of base Claim 32, as suggested by the Examiner. Claims 34, 35, 37, and 38 all depend from amended independent Claim 33. Applicants have amended Claim 36 to depend from amended Claim 33.

Rejections for Anticipation by Schultz

The Examiner has rejected Claims 1, 3, 4, 6-9, 12, 13, 17, 19, and 30-32 under 35 U.S.C. §102(e) as being anticipated by Schultz et al. (U.S. Patent No. 6,742,951).

Applicants' amended independent Claim 1 recites a system for treating a work surface comprising a handle portion having a proximal end and a distal end wherein the distal end includes a first coupling; a first tool head having a plurality of surfaces, the first tool head adapted for use with a removable pad on at least a portion of a first surface of the first tool head and having a second coupling on a second surface of the first tool head, the second coupling capable of making a connection to and disconnecting from the first coupling on the handle portion; a second tool head having a plurality of surfaces and having a third coupling on a first surface of the second tool head, the third coupling capable of making a connection to and disconnecting from the first coupling on the handle portion; a first fluid reservoir capable of attaching to the system and configured to deliver a first fluid to the work surface; and a hand gripping surface at the proximal end of the handle portion.

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The Examiner states that Schultz taught a system for treating a work surface including a handle portion (constituted by the spray bottle) having a proximal end and a distal end, wherein the distal end includes a first coupling, a first tool head adapted for use with a removable pad, a second coupling on the first tool head capable of making a connection to and disconnecting from the first coupling, and a hand gripping surface at the proximal end of the handle portion.

Applicants assert that Schultz did not teach a system for treating a work surface that included a handle portion having a proximal end and a distal end wherein the distal end included a first coupling, and a hand gripping surface at the proximal end of the handle portion, as recited in Applicants' amended Claim 1. As shown in Figure 1, Schultz taught a hand gripping surface adjacent the (distal) end of the spray bottle, which includes the first coupling. As the end to which the first coupling of Schultz attaches is the distal end, Figure 1 shows clearly that the proximal end of the system is a fluid reservoir and not a hand gripping surface.

Schultz taught that "The spray head similarly has a conventional trigger assembly 19 that controls flow through a tube disposed in the bottle..." (Col. 3, lines 11-13). A "conventional trigger assembly" requires positioning of a hand (on a handle) adjacent the assembly so that a user's hand can depress the trigger, thus applying fluid from the reservoir to a work surface. Furthermore, Schultz taught, "A single hand can be used to spray and rub a hard surface..." (Abstract). If a user's single hand were positioned at what must be taken to be the proximal end of the system of Schultz, it would not be possible to reach the trigger assembly and operate the system. Thus, Schultz taught away from using the proximal end of the handle portion (fluid reservoir) as a hand gripping surface.

Applicants respectfully traverse the rejections as applied to amended Claim 1 and submit that Schultz failed to teach each and every feature of amended Claim 1.

Dependent Claims 3, 4, 6-9, 12, 13, 17, 19, 30, and 31 each depend from amended independent Claim 1 and therefore include all the features and limitations thereof. Indeed, Applicants submit that the dependent claims recite further distinguishing features

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of particular utility. Accordingly, Applicants submit that the dependent claims are also in condition for allowance.

Applicants have cancelled independent Claim 32 and have rewritten dependent Claim 33 in independent form by including all the limitations of base Claim 32 to make Claim 33 allowable, as suggested by the Examiner.

Applicants maintain that any further rejections of the Claims 1, 3, 4, 6-9, 12, 13, 17, 19, 30, 31, 32 based on Shultz are moot in view of the foregoing amendments and remarks.

Rejections for Anticipation by Fu

The Examiner has rejected Claims 1-14, 17, 19, 20, and 30-32 under 35 U.S.C. §102(e) as being anticipated by Fu (U.S. Patent Application Publication No. 2004/0146332).

Applicants' amended independent Claim 1 recites a system for treating a work surface comprising a handle portion having a proximal end and a distal end wherein the distal end includes a first coupling; a first tool head having a plurality of surfaces, the first tool head adapted for use with a removable pad on at least a portion of a first surface of the first tool head and having a second coupling on a second surface of the first tool head, the second coupling capable of making a connection to and disconnecting from the first coupling on the handle portion; a second tool head having a plurality of surfaces and having a third coupling on a first surface of the second tool head, the third coupling capable of making a connection to and disconnecting from the first coupling on the handle portion; a first fluid reservoir capable of attaching to the system and configured to deliver a first fluid to the work surface; and a hand gripping surface at the proximal end of the handle portion.

The Examiner states that Fu taught a system for treating a work surface including a handle portion (telescoping body 12) having a proximal end 26 and a distal end 32, wherein the distal end includes a first coupling, a first tool head adapted for use with a removable pad, a second coupling on the first tool head capable of making a connection to and disconnecting from the first coupling, a first fluid reservoir 14 capable of attaching

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to the system, and a hand gripping surface 60 at the proximal end 26 of the handle portion 12.

Fu taught, "The telescoping body 12 has a proximal or first end 26 including an extreme proximal end 28 and a distal or second end 30 including an extreme distal end 32. The telescoping body 12 preferably includes first and second generally cylindrically-shaped hollowed rods 34, 36, a locking sleeve 38, and a connecting sleeve 40, as best illustrated in FIGS. 1 and 4. A portion 42 of the first rod 34 is preferably positioned within the fluid reservoir 14, the purpose of which is described below." (¶0024) Fu disclosed further that, "The fluid reservoir 14 is preferably positioned at the proximal end 26 of the telescoping body 12, the purpose of which is described below..... The portion 42 of the first rod 34 positioned within the reservoir 14 stabilizes the cleaning apparatus 10 and provides a support on which the fluid reservoir 14 may be mounted." (¶0025) Fu further taught, "The handle 16 is preferably substantially hollow and positioned at the extreme proximal end 28 of the body 12...A plurality of raised generally parallel longitudinal grips 60 is formed on the outer face 56 to facilitate grasping the handle 16." (¶0026)

Thus, Fu disclosed that a fluid reservoir 14 is attached to a proximal end of a handle portion 12. As shown in Figures 1 and 4, the proximal end 26 of the handle portion 12 is positioned inside the distal portion of the reservoir 14. A hand gripping surface 60 is part of the reservoir 14 and is located some distance from the proximal end 26 of the handle portion 12, not at the proximal end 26 of the handle portion 12.

Applicants respectfully traverse the rejections as applied to amended Claim 1 and submit that Fu failed to teach each and every feature of amended Claim 1.

Applicants have cancelled independent Claim 32 and have rewritten dependent Claim 33 in independent form by including all the limitations of base Claim 32, as suggested by the Examiner.

Dependent Claims 2-14, 17, 19, 20, 30, and 31 each depend from amended independent Claim 1 and therefore include all the features and limitations thereof. Indeed, Applicants submit that the dependent claims recite further distinguishing features

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of particular utility. Accordingly, Applicants submit that the dependent claims are also allowable over Fu.

Applicants maintain that any further rejections of the Claims 1-14, 17, 19, 20 and 30-32 based on Fu are moot in view of the foregoing amendments and remarks. Applicants have not addressed the further rejections of dependent claims as being moot in view of the amendments and remarks herein.

CONCLUSIONS

In view of the foregoing amendments and remarks, Applicants submit that the application is in condition for allowance. If, however, some issue remains which the Examiner feels may be addressed by Examiner's amendment, the Examiner is cordially invited to call the undersigned for authorization.

Please charge any additional fees, including fees for additional extensions of time, or credit overpayment to Deposit Account No. 03 2270.

Respectfully submitted,
The Clorox Company
Customer No. 27019

Dated: 11/29/2004

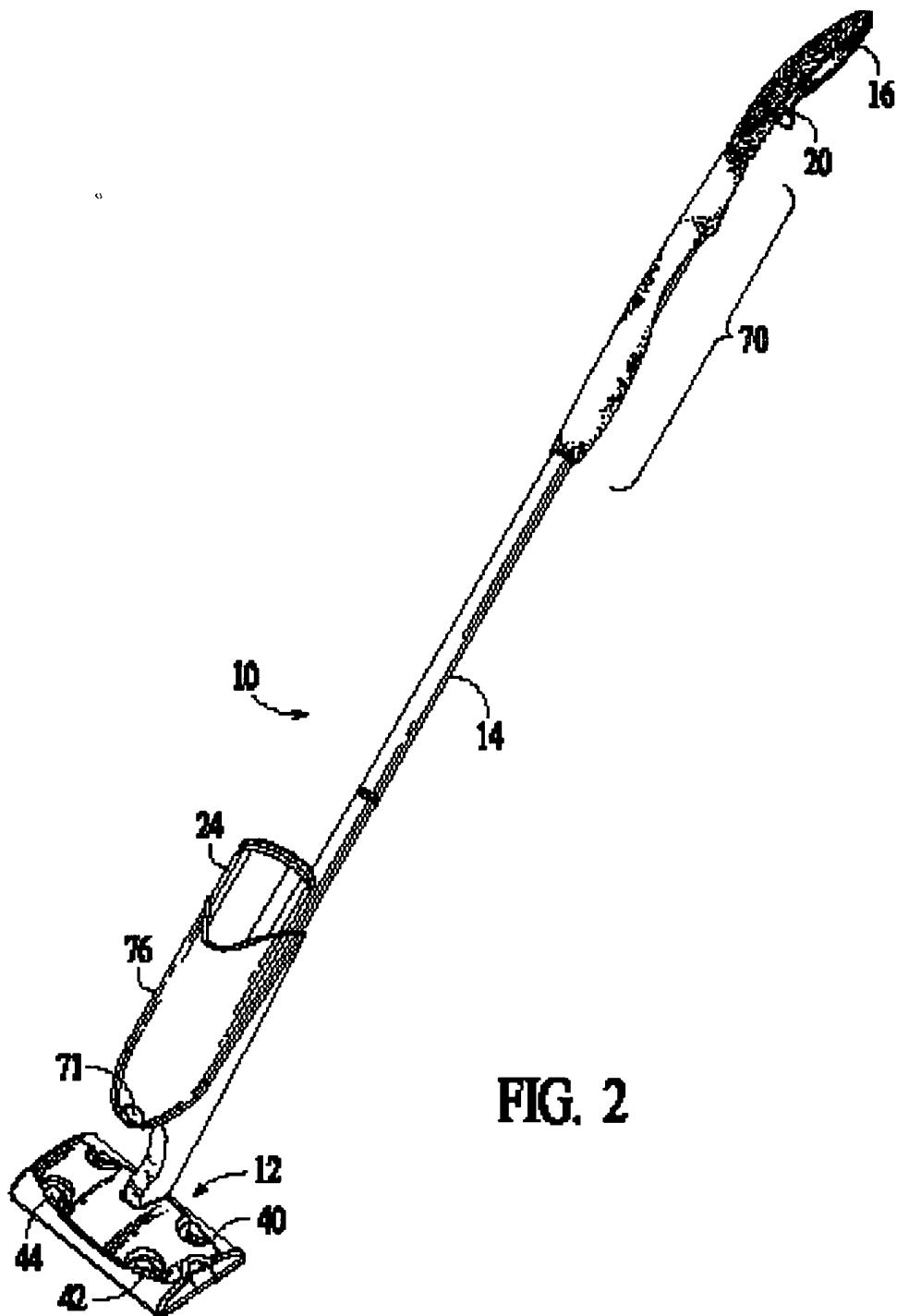
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2/222

Annotated Marked-up Drawing



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Annotated Marked-up Drawing

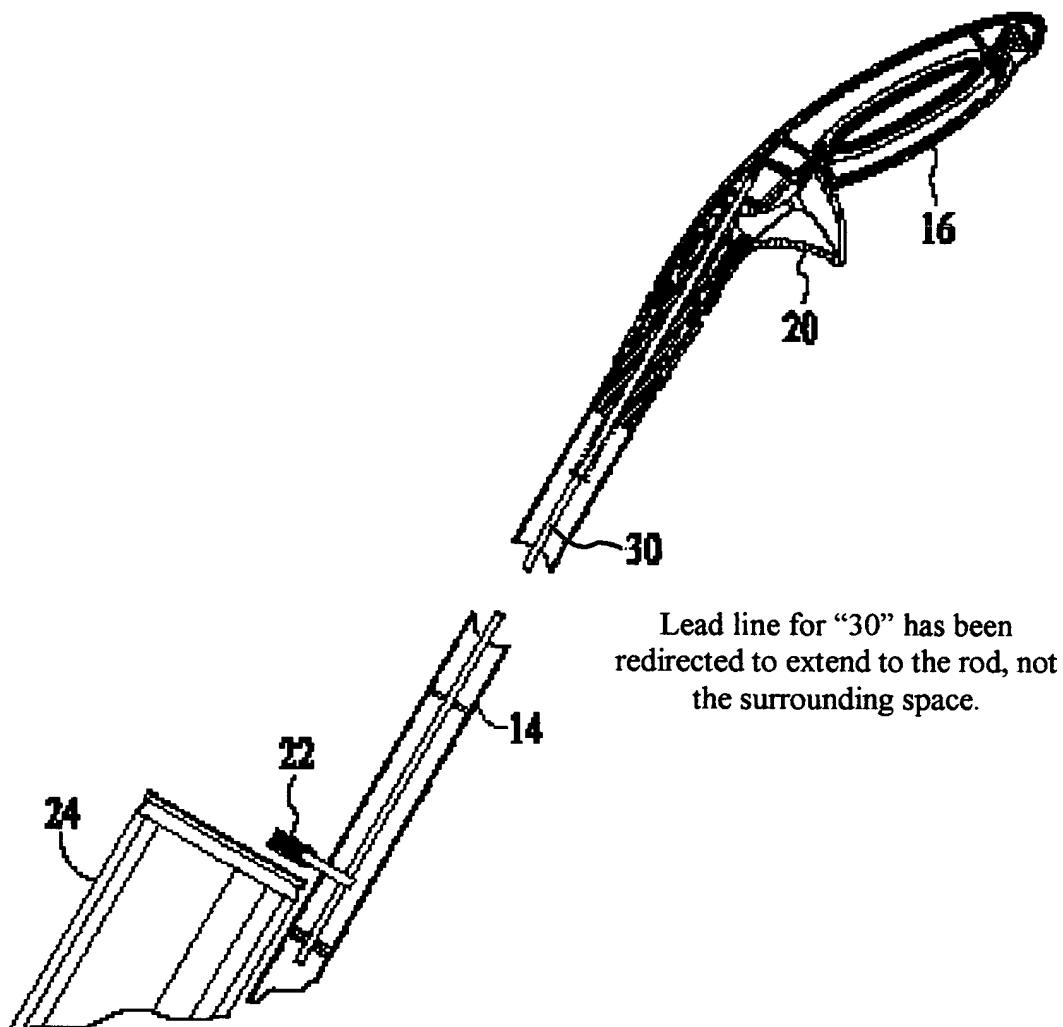


FIG. 4